



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997 Co-Founders Frank and Mary Borges

CP&BC Board

2017-2019

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Annual Christmas Party!

Profiled by Tom Lang

Our December 8th breakfast at Pardini's will be our annual Christmas Party! This year, we welcome back the talents of Mr. Bill Thornbury and the student choir from St. Helen's School, who will perform Christmas carols to carry us through the holiday season.

We will have plenty of time for networking, a fun raffle, and even an appearance by ol' St. Nick himself! (Spoiler alert! This newsletter identifies Santa!) The club's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Craig Plunkett, will impart a special Christmas message to inspire us and remind us to always focus on Christ at home and in our vocations during this most wonderful time of the year.

Attendees are asked to bring mittens, coats, scarves and/or cash for our annual donation to Catholic Charities.

ABOUT ST. HELEN'S SCHOOL

Saint Helen's School was opened in September of 1953 as a mission school with grades one through five. The school was administered and staffed by the Holy Cross Sisters the first year. The School Sisters of Notre Dame took over the school the following year. Grades kindergarten and six were added. On December 8, 1955, the mission received parish status.

In 1993, after 39 years, the last of the School Sisters of Notre Dame served as a teacher on a staff consisting primarily of lay persons. For the next three school years there were two Sisters of the Franciscan Hospitallers of the Immaculate Conception congregation, one of whom served as principal. At present, St. Helen's School is staffed by an experienced and dedicated faculty of lay people.

This past spring, faced with mounting operational deficits, the school was facing imminent closure, but the community came together to save the school for the future. While financial challenges still exist, St. Helen's School continues to provide much needed Catholic education in southeast Fresno and certainly deserves continued support from the entire diocese.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network December Intention The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's meeting?
- Business Person of the Month
- Book Review

- December Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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Speaker Recap Deacon Bill Lucido

By Norma Williams

What would motivate one to trek 500 miles across Spain through blowing winds, varying temperatures, steep inclines, sheep dung on boots, and falling in a briar patch? Deacon Bill Lucido of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center addressed this question in his November 10 presentation to CPBC members and guests. Reasons might be to atone for one's sins, to offer gratitude to God, to bridge transitions or to re-evaluate life, to cry to God for help, to become more contemplative, or simply as an athletic event.



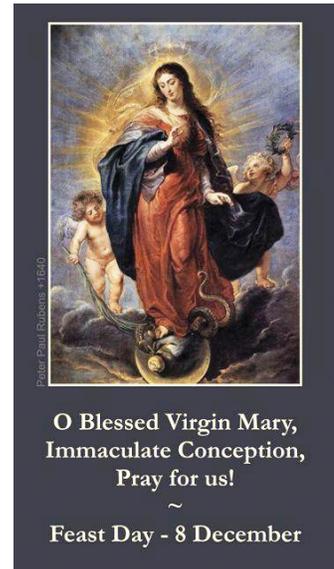
Pilgrim Bill Lucido

Deacon Bill was one of 278,232 pilgrims who walked the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela, finishing on his 72nd birthday in October 2015, and losing 22 pounds along the way. The first day took 11 hours at 4900 feet elevation. He prepared by walking about 500 miles around the Fresno area over six months.

A typical pilgrimage day began about 6 a.m. and concluded well after 8 p.m. Yellow arrows and replicas of seashells guided to the destination. Stamps were received along the way and were presented as evidence at the end in order to receive one's certificate of completion. Pilgrims help each other navigate the often arduous caminos on which some deaths have occurred.

St. James preached in Galacia around 40 A.D. before returning to Jerusalem. A shepherd is believed to have found his remains in the 800s. The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the legendary burial site of the Apostle, was consecrated in 1211. Since then, millions of pilgrims have traversed the Pyrenean foothills to the holy site.

Prayer Research and Submission By Mary Borges



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

... in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from all stain of original sin ...
Pope Pius IX

Our Lady of the Immaculate
Conception, Pray for us!
Amen.

Business Person of the Month Michael O'Hare – AKA Santa Mike

Little did I realize that nine years ago that taking a few months off from shaving my beard would change my walk with Christ. This service has given me an opportunity to bring the joy and hope of Christ's life to many during the holiday season. In turn, I have been blessed through the interactions with those in need. Because I had gain a "few pounds" through the year and my hair became whiter, a dear friend, Judy, a member of St. Paul's Catholic Newman Center, encouraged me to become a Santa. She had a Santa suit to loan me, and I was off with sleigh bells in hand. I have since had the opportunity of being Santa to a number of local organizations including but not limited to Right To Life, Family Connections Christian Adoption, St. Anthony of Padua, Catholic Charities, The ARC Fresno, United Way, and St. Joseph's youth group.

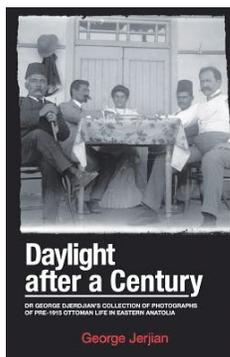


Upcoming Events

- January 2018 – No Breakfast
- February 9, 2018
- March 9, 2018

Interested in sponsoring
the newsletter?

Contact Denise Correia
vavi@cns4u.com



Book Review

By John Kasaian

Daylight After a Century

By George Jerjian

277 pages, paperbound

Antares, Yerevan, 2015

ISBN 978-9939-51-826-8

My daughter bought me this copy of a curious book, "Daylight After A Century," Dr. George

Djerdian's collection of photographs of pre-1915 Ottoman life in Eastern Anatolia.

This is a compilation of 100 photographs and magic lantern slides surviving out of 240, taken by Dr. Djerdian in his home town of Arabkir and his college town of Ezeroum, and hidden in a metal box for 100 years, moving with the Dr. Djerdian from Arabkir to Alexandria, Egypt (50 years), Khartoum, Sudan (20 years), London, England (30 years), and Washington DC (10 years) until the undeveloped glass plates were developed and then published by his son, George Jerjian.

It is important collection of images for several reasons, among them is that they are a the visual record of Armenian and Pontus Greek life in the Ottoman Empire before the massacres during WWI, and at that time it fell to Christians to take photographs, as creating images was considered an affront to Islam and something no Muslim would have done. While plenty of passing scholars and tourists engaged in photography, here we have a native, with a native's eye, and that makes a difference.

The images are organized into topics: water, land, people, churches, schools, economic life, political life, social life, and personal images having to do with the photographer, Dr. Djerdian. Information given for each image is sparse, but provides much for the imagination. There is considerable information regarding the good Doctor's camera, a 1904 Goerz Anschutz Field Camera with a 180mm f/6.8 Doppel Anastigmat series III for shooting on 6-½" x4-¾" glass plates.

What truly caught my attention was the number of photographs taken of an ancient Armenian Chalcedonian (Armenian Catholics in communion with Rome) Monastery. There is not a lot of anything regarding Armenians Chalcedonian Catholics mentioned, much less illustrated in books.

Another curious feature is that these plates would have been exposed between 1904 (obviously if the camera was circa 1904) and the 1915 massacres. The Armenian community appears for the most part prosperous and this within 20 years of the Hamidian massacres of Armenians and Assyrians in Turkey in 1895-96 by Sultan Abdul Hammid II.

You can ask Cotter Religious Goods to get you a copy. If you like historic photography you'll find it intriguing.

Board Profile: John Gerardi, Right to Life of Central California

John Gerardi grew up in Clovis, and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (2010) and Notre Dame Law School (2013). At Notre Dame, John met his lovely wife Holly, and they married in 2013. They have two beautiful daughters, Madeleine (2 and a half) and Sophia (15 months). After two years of practicing law in Massachusetts, and a year working for California Family Council fighting against anti-family legislation in Sacramento, John joined Right to Life of Central California as Executive Director in September 2016. His family are parishioners in the Holy Cross Chaplaincy for the traditional Latin Mass at St. Anthony of Padua, where he sings in the Gregorian Chant choir. He is a member of the bar in Massachusetts and California.

John took the time to answer a few questions to help the CP&BC membership learn a little bit more about him.

How do you incorporate your faith into your daily life?

I am highly imperfect, and realize how much I am in need of God's grace in order to be a better husband, father, and employer. Daily prayer has to be a foundational part of everyone's life, and I try to do this through attending daily Mass, and daily prayer in the evenings with my wife and daughters.

What's important about being a Catholic in today's society?

Being a Catholic, on its own, isn't enough in the current cultural climate. Living an authentically Catholic life, and allowing the Church's less popular and more culturally challenging teachings to shape one's lifestyle and beliefs, is what's critical. It is precisely in these more challenging teachings — on marriage and family, the dignity of the human person, openness to life, etc. — where fidelity to Christ and his Church is most needed, and most personally fruitful and rewarding. Later in her life, St. Bernadette Soubirous, the visionary of Lourdes, said the only things she feared were bad Catholics — nothing else. How can we claim to be good Catholics if our faith only impacts what we say on Sundays, and not what we do or how we live the rest of the week?

Why did you agree to be a board member of the CP&BC Board?

I believe in the organization's mission, and want to do my part to further it. CP&BC is a wonderful resource, a community of committed Catholic business owners who strive to build one another up in the faith and support one another's endeavors. I'm delighted to be on the board, and hope to serve it ably.

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**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL
& BUSINESS CLUB
DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CP&BC Membership Dues: Annual dues are \$45 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at www.cpbcfresno.org. The deadline is December 31, 2017 to be included in the upcoming directory. For more information contact John Kanaley at [315-243-6597](tel:315-243-6597).

Reservations: Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Lourdes Sanchez at 559-434-2722 or by visiting www.cpbcfresno.org then click on the reservation link. Doors open at 7 a.m. for coffee and networking. The program starts at 7:20 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast cost is \$17 for members and \$22 for non-members. An annual discounted cost of \$120 is available to members that prepay for the year; this is a savings of \$33. Reservations are still required for prepays.

Membership Directory: Ad space starts at \$50. Send an email to directory@cpbcfresno.org for more information. December 15, 2017 is the deadline to reserve ad space. December 31, 2017 is the deadline for ad artwork. More directory advertising information is available at www.cpbcfresno.org.

Prayer Network: CP&BC has a "prayer network" to be used for member prayer needs for themselves or loved ones. We have members already signed-up to pray for special needs submitted; however, anyone else is invited to also become part of the prayer network. Sally Lauritzen is the point person to whom requests can be made, and once they are received she will email or phone the network. Contact Sally (salauritz@att.net or [559.439.8378](tel:559.439.8378)) to become part of the network or to submit a prayer request.

Website: Please be sure to visit www.cpbcfresno.org for all the latest information about our club. CP&BC thanks J. Colin Petersen of J - I.T. Outsource for the design and maintenance of the website.

Mission Statement:

As Catholic professional and business men and women, we are called to live our Christian ethics not only on Sundays, but throughout our daily lives at home and at work.

Our goal in the Catholic Professional & Business Club shall be to incorporate and uphold our beliefs in every aspect of our daily lives, and to gather to share with others who seek a more ethical business environment.

Each of us shall strive to achieve a commingling of our ethical obligations and our professional obligations in demonstration of the fact that ethics and business need not be mutually exclusive terms.

Publisher:

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